

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
9 AUGUST 1995  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 04 APRIL 1996**

**1. SITE NAME:** Camp Abbot

**SITE NUMBER:** F10OR004100

**LOCATION:**

City: Sunriver  
County: Deschutes  
State: Oregon

**PROJECT NUMBER:** F10OR004102

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 2

**ASR RAC:** 2

**2. POC'S:**

**TECHNICAL MANAGER:**

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**3. SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Camp Abbot is located in Deschutes County approximately 15 miles south of Bend, Oregon. The former Camp Abbot consists of a total of 9,686.41 acres. It is bordered on the west by U.S. Highway 97 and straddles the Deschutes River. The portion of the site situated east of the Deschutes River is developed as part of the Sunriver Resort. The lands west of the River are under the control of the U.S. Forest Service and are virtually undeveloped. There are no ordnance-related land use restrictions for this site.

The soils that are present in the site area are very thin. For the most part, the surface is composed of various outcropping rocks, mostly basalt. In some areas, fault block valley floors filled with muddy sediments that were washed into them from neighboring mountains. These Miocene age fills and sediments are mostly gravelly and silty sand in nature.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** Camp Abbot was an Engineer Replacement Training Center (ERTC) which operated from March 1943 to June 1944. Up to 10,000 men at a time trained at the camp, and in the 14 months of its operation, approximately 90,000 soldiers and other personnel were trained here. The 17 week training cycle at Camp Abbot was divided into three distinct phases. The first phase included training in hand grenades and anti-tank grenades; defense against chemical, air, and mechanized attack; and rifle marksmanship. The next segment provided the troops with demolition training. Nitrostarch and other explosives were used to blast bridges. The last phase of the ERTC program was a three week field maneuver spent under combat zone conditions. Camp Abbot also served as the headquarters for the Oregon Maneuver War Games of 1943, the largest maneuver ever held in the northwest. Historical maps show that the camp's facilities included: a tactical training

area, a night training area, grenade courts, an anti-aircraft range, field target range, sub-machine gun range, demolition area, ordnance magazines, an anti-tank demonstration area, gas chamber, transition range and a rifle range. Gas training was a vital component of the 17 week training cycle. Troops learned how to handle a thermite bomb during a class in incendiary control. Soldiers were instructed how "to combat" the hazardous magnesium bomb along with white phosphorous. The base newspaper in 1943 stated that a Mustard-Lewisite mixture had been added to the list of chemical agents because it was the standard Japanese blistering agent. Camp Abbot ceased operations in June 1944. Three letters dated 1946 and 1947 address the decontamination issue and conclude that the land was free from contamination by poisonous gases and all explosives and explosive objects possible to detect by visual inspection.

The former Camp Abbot consists of around 9,686 acres. It was an active installation for only 14 months during World War II. During this 14 months of activation there were approximately 90,000 soldiers trained using a 17 week three phase cycle. Since the time of closure of Camp Abbot there have only been a few reported public/ordnance encounters. A few of the items that have been found are parts of a grenade, a 2.36" bazooka round, and different caliber bullets. The area where these items were found are not in close proximity to any of the known ranges. The only ordnance related item found by the site inspection team was a grenade spoon found in the vicinity of the grenade courts.

## **5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

### **Former Camp Abbot**

Size, acres:	9,686.41
Former Use:	Camp Abbot Military Installation
Present Use:	Sunriver Resort Community and Forest Service controlled undeveloped land.
Probable End Use:	Same as Present Use.
Confirmed Ordnance:	Yes
Types:	Grenade parts, 2.36 Bazooka rocket, different caliber bullets
Potential Ordnance:	Yes
Types:	Small arms, Grenades, Bazooka Rockets, and other munitions that might have been used at the above listed ranges.

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report for the former Camp Abbot was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District in July 1995.

**7. STRATEGY:** EE/CA

## **8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

The Sunriver Community, in the eastern portion of the site, has been extensively developed and is believed to be free of ordnance contamination. The rest of the site, which is primarily controlled by the Forest Service, is undeveloped and is believed to have some possible ordnance contamination. There have been a few public/ordnance encounters since the site closed in June 1944. Some of the ordnance was found in areas where there was no documented ranges. The ordnance that was found was a 2.36" Bazooka rocket, parts of a grenade, and different caliber bullets. During the initial site inspection the site inspection team only found a grenade spoon which was in the vicinity of the grenade courts. Due to the nature of training, the types of ordnance recovered, and the information derived related to past incidents, ordnance contamination is thought to be limited.

There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on site inspection by appropriate state and federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities if remedial action is recommended as part of the final Archives Search Report.

During the 17 week training courses held at Camp, there was a chemical section in phase I. It is possible that chemical training kits might have been on site but there is no documentation of any kits or their disposition. The base newspaper at the time did state that a Mustard-Lewisite mixture had been added to the list of chemical agents because it was a standard Japanese blistering agents. It is not known if any of this chemical was used. This issue is to be brought to the attention of the RCWM Team.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** EE/CA

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** For Official Use Only